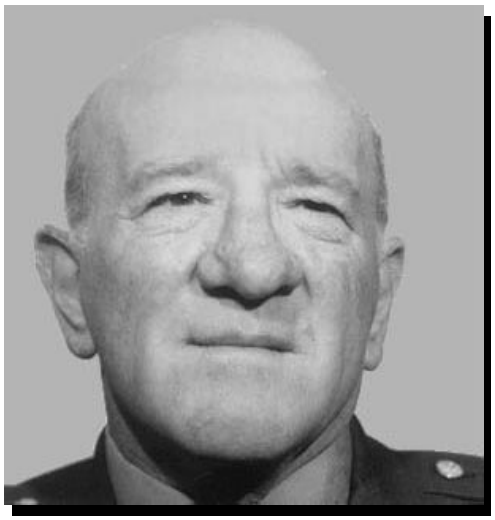

# Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame

## 1981 Inductees

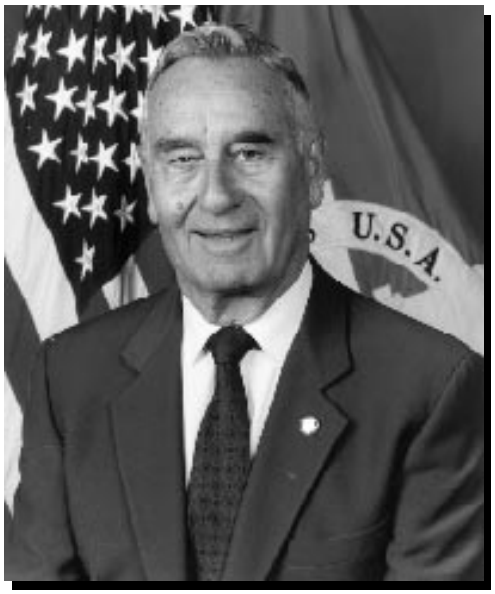
# Major General Horace F. Bigelow

Major General Horace F. Bigelow was born in Dorchester, Massachusetts on January 30, 1908 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1932. During World War II, he commanded the 232nd Ordnance Base Depot which provided logistical support to the U.S. Fifth Army. After World War II, he served as Executive Officer to the Assistant Chief of Ordnance, Field Service. Through his efforts, this office, the controlling activity for the supply and maintenance of Ordnance, was modernized and the numerous problems associated with the early phases of the Korean Conflict were manageable. He then commanded the U.S. Army Letterkenny Ordnance Depot and was later assigned as the Ordnance Officer and G-4 of Headquarters, U.S. Army Forces, Far East-Eighth Army. In 1958, he was reassigned to the Office Chief of Ordnance and served as Assistant Chief of Ordnance Manpower. He was appointed Deputy Chief of Ordnance in 1960, and in June 1962, was appointed Chief of Ordnance. In August 1962, he was reassigned as the Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics. In this position, he was in charge of Procurement Equipment and Missiles Army programs. His tenure was intended to be as Acting Chief of the Ordnance Department in its final phase. However, it became necessary to appoint him Chief to effect a smooth phase-out of the Office Chief of Ordnance into the operations of a new Army Organization. Thus, he became the last Chief of Ordnance until the office was reinstituted in 1985. He properly disposed of records and handled the final personnel matters of the Ordnance Department. General Bigelow retired on October 31, 1964, and was recalled to active duty on October 1, 1965, to become the Vice Chairman of the Army Logistics Systems Study Group, subsequently known as the Army Logistics Survey Board. General Bigelow died in 1978.



# Chief Warrant Officer Two Bernard Cohen

During World War II, CW2 Cohen was awarded the Legion of Merit for technical ingenuity for fabricating a vehicle frame straightener and an axle straightener. With his invention, many otherwise unreparable vehicles were returned to combat. During the Korean Conflict, he won the Bronze Star with “V” Device for heroic action near Chupari, South Korea. On September 11, 1951 he lead an effort to recover two vehicle retrievers and a tank that had been abandoned in enemy territory. Mr. Cohen was again awarded the Bronze Star (Oak Leaf Cluster) for technical contributions in the fabrication of a device that prevented track-laying vehicles from sliding on hazardous, icy, Korean mountain trails. He also fabricated parts that allowed deadlined equipment to be repaired and returned to service. His initiative saved a great deal of immobilized equipment from falling into enemy hands. From 1956 until 1976, he served the Ordnance Corps as a civilian employee at the U.S. Army Ordnance Center and School. During this period, he designed the Metal Body Repair Course, developed instructional materials, and served as primary instructor for the first two years of the course. He also updated the Welding Course to include introduction of metal inert gas welding. Finally, he supervised all welding and metal body repair during training from 1970 to 1976. During periods of rapid increases in the number of trainees and concurrent shortages of materials with which to conduct training, Mr. Cohen displayed great initiative and saved the U.S. Government a great deal of money.




# Lieutenant General Eugene J. D'Ambrosio

Lieutenant General Eugene J. D'Ambrosio was born in Yonkers, New York on April 13, 1921. As a young Ordnance officer, he designed the first Army standardized stock accounting system, which was ultimately adopted by all of the technical services. As project manager for the first operations research effort to review and revise rebuild practices for Army materiel, he developed the economics life philosophy used today concerning inventory and research and development items. As the G-4 of the 1st Infantry Division in 1965, he prepared the Division for movement to Vietnam and for conducting combat logistical operations there, setting precedents for all follow-on divisions. As a brigadier general in 1971, he restructured the Army Depot Maintenance system by combining maintenance depots in CONUS, Europe, and the Far East into a single structure under the command and direction of the U.S. Army Materiel Command. While serving as the Director of Supply and Maintenance in the office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics in 1974, he implemented the first Army-wide Integrated Logistics System (ILS) for the support of new weapons systems. He was the first Deputy Commanding General of U.S. Army Materiel Development and Readiness Command from 1976 to 1979 and made significant contributions in this position. He established the Depot Systems Command, to command and control the Army's supply and maintenance depots worldwide. He established the Army Materiel Readiness Agency at Lexington, Kentucky and designed and implemented the first readiness reporting system for the U.S. Army wholesale logistics command. He had direct control of all the Materiel Readiness Commands, with an inventory of over $37 billion. General D'Ambrosio retired in 1979 and became the Honorary Colonel of the Ordnance Corps in 1990.

# Lieutenant General Jean E. Engler

Lieutenant General Jean E. Engler was born in Baltimore, Maryland on August 3, 1909 and graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1933. During World War II, he directed the design, development, and testing of the military general purpose tire, and as project manager was responsible for the development and production of synthetic rubber tires. After World War II, as the Chief, Maintenance and Supply Division in Tokyo, he planned and organized the collection and rebuild of all materiel from the Pacific Theatre. While assigned to the Chief of Industrial Office Branch, Office Chief of Ordnance, he planned the Tank and Automotive Production Program for supporting the Korean Conflict. In 1952, he was appointed Chief of the Industrial Division, Ordnance Tank and Automotive Command. In this position, he originated the "Controlled Accelerated Cycle", that is, the development-to-production cycle for complex major end-items. Additionally, he established the optimum balance between stocks on hand and production capability through his mobilization planning concept. As Deputy Commanding General, U.S. Army, Vietnam, he established four major ports and base complexes which resulted in a fully responsive logistics system that met the need of the combat and support soldiers. As the Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics from 1967 to 1969, he implemented four significant policy actions. First, he established a user-oriented supply system with direct contact to units in the field; second, he modernized the logistics Automatic Data Processing system on a worldwide basis; third, he standardized ammunition supply management; and finally, he established the depot maintenance closed loop support system. His military career was one of a continuous effort to provide the best materiel to combat and support forces at the lowest cost. General Engler retired in 1967.

# Colonel George B. Jarrett

Colonel George B. Jarrett was born in Haddonfield, New Jersey on October 14, 1901 and was called to duty as a Reserve Officer in 1939. Colonel Jarrett's assignments included the U.S. Army Ordnance School at Aberdeen Proving Ground (APG), Chief Foreign Material Branch, APG, and Technical Advisor to the Zurnig Mission in the European Theatre of Operations. He assisted the British in North Africa by orienting them to U.S. equipment. He also collected enemy equipment for allied use. In November 1945, he returned to APG where he became Museum Officer and Chief, Foreign Materiel Branch. In 1946, he was separated from active duty and accepted a position as a Department of the Army Civilian. He then became Curator of the Ordnance Museum and Chief of the APG Technical Library. Colonel Jarrett remained in this position until his retirement in 1966. After his retirement, he joined the Ordnance Center of Technology Foundation, an organization previously established by persons interested in preserving the Ordnance Museum collections and constructing a new building for the Ordnance Museum. Colonel Jarrett later became President of the Foundation and officiated at the transfer of the new Ordnance Museum Building to the Department of the Army. Colonel Jarrett died in 1974.

# Major General John G. Zierdt

Major General John Graham Zierdt was born in Ashley, Pennsylvania on February 17, 1913. He held key positions in the U.S. Army missile program for more than a decade of change in both technology and management of major weapons programs. He was a key contributor in the fielding of the Redstone Ballistic Missile (the free world's first operational large ballistic missile system); the development of the Jupiter intermediate range ballistic missile; and the American space program. In 1960, he became the U.S. Army's first project manager, directing the development and deployment of the Nike Zeus antimissile system. He later became the Commander U.S. Army Rocket and Guided Missile Agency. He commanded Army test operations at Kwajalein Atol which later became the Kwajalein Missile Range. He centralized direction and control while serving as Deputy Director, Research and Development, U.S. Army Materiel Command in 1962 through 1963. This resulted in concentrating Army high energy laser research at Redstone Arsenal and missile development of laser semiactive guidance technology, applied in the "smart bombs" employed by U.S. forces in the later stages of the Vietnam Conflict. As Commander of the U.S. Army Missile Command and Redstone Arsenal, Alabama from 1963 to 1967, he led the Army missile team. Fielding of the Nike Hercules and basic Hawk air defense guided missile systems and the Pershing ballistic missile system were completed under his leadership. Engineering development under his direction resulted in the new generation of precision-guided battlefield weapons. Because of his efforts, it was possible for the Army to field the 2.75 rocket system with Army helicopters at the onset of the Vietnam Conflict, and this work also led to the helicopter use of the TOW system. As Commander at Redstone Arsenal, General Zierdt rebuilt and strengthened the Army's in-house missile research, development, and engineering capabilities. General Zierdt retired in 1967.